



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

Fish and Wildlife Service

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Elizabeth Lipscomb (202) 343-5634

DUCK STAMP DEADLINE DRAWS NEAR

Waterfowl artists have only a few days to complete their designs for entering the Nation's premier waterfowl art competition, the Duck Stamp contest, sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. To be eligible for the 1986 contest, entries must be postmarked on or before midnight, October 1.

The winning design will be used on the 1987-88 Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, or Duck Stamp. All waterfowl hunters 16 years of age or older must purchase the stamp each year. They are also bought by individuals who want to make a contribution to the Federal wetlands acquisition program.

"People who buy a \$7.50 Duck Stamp at their local Post Office or wildlife refuge can be assured that their money will go where it is needed most--toward the purchase of prime waterfowl habitat," explains Frank Dunkle, director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "It is a simple, direct way to support a national conservation effort."

By Federal regulation, money acquired through the sale of Duck Stamps must be used to buy habitat for migratory birds. Since the Duck Stamp program began in 1934, more than 90 million stamps have been sold, providing over \$300 million to buy 3.5 million acres of prime wetland habitat. This land is added to the National Wildlife Refuge System.

The Duck Stamp contest began in 1949 with eight entries. Last year, 1,243 waterfowl paintings were received.

As the popularity of the Duck Stamp contest has grown, so has its profitability. Although the Federal government offers no award money, winners of the contest commonly earn substantial sums from the sale of limited edition prints of their designs.

Rules and entry forms are issued each year from the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Contest, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, 18th and C Streets NW., Washington, DC 20240. Prospective contestants for the 1987 contest should contact this office to be placed on a mailing list for the regulations scheduled to be published in the spring. Contestants are advised to review the regulations carefully before submitting an entry as the technical requirements are subject to change from year to year.

Judging will take place November 4 and 5, 1986, in the auditorium of the Department of the Interior.

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